DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 328 110 HE 024 128

AUTHOR Kimball, Roger
TITLE Tenured Radicals: How Politics Has Corrupted Our Higher Education.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-06-016190-6
PUB DATE 90
NOTE 204p.
AVAILABLE FROM Harper & Row, 10 East 53rd St., New York, NY 10022 ($18.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Viewpoints (120)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS College Faculty; Curriculum; Curriculum Development; *Educational Trends; Feminism; *Higher Education; *Humanities Instruction; Ideology; *Liberal Arts; Marxism; Moral Values; North American Culture; *Political Influences; Political Issues; *Politics of Education; Role of Education; Technical Writing; Trend Analysis; Western Civilization
IDENTIFIERS *Radicalism

ABSTRACT

This book chronicles progress in the destruction of the values, methods, and goals of traditional humanistic study. It describes recent developments in the academic study of humanities as ideologically motivated assaults on the intellectual and moral substance of Western culture. It argues that various academic interest groups have worked to overturn the curriculum, undermine the traditional intellectual and moral goals of a liberal arts education, and transform scholarly language into obscure argot unintelligible to students and the educated public. The book shows how the spirit of 1960s radicalism has installed itself at the center of American colleges and universities through the efforts of feminists, neo-Marxists, practitioners of deconstruction, and other politically motivated groups. Chapter titles include: "The Assault on the Canon," "Speaking against the Humanities," "The October Syndrome," "The Case of Paul de Man," "Deconstruction Comes to Architecture," "The New Sophistry," and "The Real Crisis in the Humanities." (Approximately 100 references) (JDD)

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